



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,078	04/12/2001	David A. Thompson	45-35	1456

27557 7590 07/03/2002

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY, LLP
900 17TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER
LOUIE, WAI SING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2814	

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/833,078

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Wai-Sing Louie

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7,9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-16, drawn to a method of modifying the bandgap energy in an InGaAsP quantum well structure, classified in class 438, subclass 47.
- II. Claims 17-21, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 79.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group I and Group II are related as apparatus and product made. The inventions in this relationship are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the apparatus as claimed is not an obvious apparatus for making the product and the apparatus can be used for making a different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different apparatus (MPEP § 806.05(g)). In this case modifying the bandgap energy in an InGaAsP quantum well active region, it would be possible to change the mole fraction of the compound to modify the bandgap energy of the quantum well active region.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. David Edmondson on 5/8/02 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-16. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 17-21

withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. In claim 1, line 11, it is unclear what is meant by "slow diffusers".
- b. In claim 1, line 15, it is unclear what is meant by "fast diffusers".
- c. In claim 8, line 3, it is unclear what is meant by "deep states".
- d. In claim 14, line 3, it is unclear what is meant by "point defects".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 8-16 (in so far as they are understood) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi et al. (US 5,671,242) in view of Haysom et al. (IEEE Catalog#00CH37107 page 56-59) and Elman et al. (US 5,238,868).

With regard to claims 1 and 3, Takiguchi et al. disclose the method of manufacturing a quantum well structure (col. 5, line 15 to col. 11, line 17 and fig. 1) comprising:

- a • Providing a quantum well structure comprising an indium gallium arsenide phosphide (InGaAsP) quantum well active region (col. 5, lines 17-34 and fig. 1);
- b • Takiguchi et al. disclose an InP containing layer 13b, but do not disclose providing the layer with vacancy type defects on top of the quantum well structure. However, Elman et al. disclose by inter-diffusing the vacancies from the created disordered region 11 into the quantum well active region (Elman col. 2, lines 44-47). Elman et al. teach the quantum well bandgap could be tuned by this intermixing technique without inducing defects or causing damages into the quantum well (Elman col. 2, lines 47-53 and 10-14). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to use the quantum well intermixing technique. Doing so could tune the bandgap of the quantum well active region without causing damages in the active region;
- c • Takiguchi et al. disclose an InP layer 4, but do not disclose providing the layer with interstitial type defects on top of the quantum well structure. However, Haysom et al. disclose an InP upper layer created a surplus of phosphorus interstitial defect (page 56, first paragraph). Haysom et al. teach the quantum well intermixing technique creating a surplus of lattice defects in selected areas

resulting a blue shift, which increases in energy (page 56, right column).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to use the quantum well intermixing technique in order to create a blue shift;

- Takiguchi et al. do not disclose applying a rapid thermal annealing (RTA) process for controlling diffusion of the vacancy type and interstitial type defects into the InGaAsP quantum well active region. However, Takiguchi et al. modified by Elman et al. and Haysom et al. above would have an InP layer containing vacancy defect and another InP layer containing interstitial defects. Both Elman et al. and Haysom et al. disclose RTA to generate inter-diffusion of defects into the quantum well active region (Elman col. 2, lines 44-47 and col. 4, lines 20-22; Haysom page 56, right column). Therefore, it is obvious to thermal anneal the structure to generate the quantum well intermixing.

With regard to claims 2, 4, and 13, Takiguchi et al. do not disclose the InP layer is epitaxial grown by means of molecular beam epitaxy (MBE). However, Elman et al. disclose the MBE technique (Elman col. 4, line 7). One with ordinary skill in the art would appreciate the MBE is the best technique to form the semiconductor compound including the selected defects in the layer. Therefore, it is obvious to form the InP layer with MBE process.

With regard to claim 8, Takiguchi et al., modified by Elman et al. in claim 1 above, disclose the vacancy type of defects in the first indium phosphide layer. Elman et al. disclose the inter-diffusion into the InGaAsP quantum well active region and tune the bandgap energy of quantum well (Elman col. 2, lines 24-29).

With regard to claims 9-11, Takiguchi et al. do not disclose the deep states provide reduced carrier lifetimes, or the reduced carrier lifetimes provide a reduction in carrier recombination times, or the deep states provide a mechanism for quenching photoluminescence within the bandgap of the InGaAsP quantum well active region. However, the process of using limitation, in a method prosecution, does not carry any patentable weight.

With regard to claim 12, in addition to the limitations disclosed in claim 1 above, Takiguchi et al. modified by Elman et al. and Haysom et al. also disclose:

- Takiguchi et al. do not disclose the acceptor-like indium vacancies. However, Elman et al. disclose Group III element across the heterostructure interface (Elman col. 1, lines 21-22). Indium is a Group III element. Therefore, it is obvious the intermixing technique inter-diffuses the acceptor-like indium vacancies.

With regard to claim 14, Takiguchi et al. do not disclose the plasma assisted epitaxial growth by means of a reduced temperature MBE process. However, Takiguchi et al., modified by Haysom et al. in claim 1 above, would disclose the InP layer having interstitial defects. Haysom et al. disclose the defects are grown-in the reduced temperature (page 56, first paragraph).

With regard to claims 15 and 16, Takiguchi et al. do not disclose the thickness of the InP layer is in a range of 0-140 nm. However, since the applicant has not established the criticality of the thickness stated and since these thickness are in common use in similar devices in the art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use these value in the device of the thickness. Where patentability is said to be based upon particular chosen dimension or upon

another variable recited in a claim, the applicant must show that the chosen dimensions are critical. In re Woodruff, 919 F2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Haysom et al. disclose the annealing is done in a single thermal anneal step (Haysom page 56, right column).

Claims 5-7 (in so far as they are understood) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi et al. (US 5,671,242) in view Yamazaki et al. (US 5,923,968).

With regard to claims 5-7, Takiguchi et al. do not disclose growing the first InP layer with helium-plasma assisted MBE or disclose exposing the InP layer to a flux of helium particles to produce the vacancy defects. However, Yamazaki et al. disclose using helium plasma treatment to deform the crystalline (Yamazaki col. 12, lines 40-45). Yamazaki et al. teach the helium plasma treatment MBE process could produce extremely high crystallinity film (Yamazaki col. 12, lines 32-38). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to use helium-plasma assisted MBE to form the first InP layer in order to produce a high crystallinity film.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wai-Sing Louie whose telephone number is (703) 305-0474. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

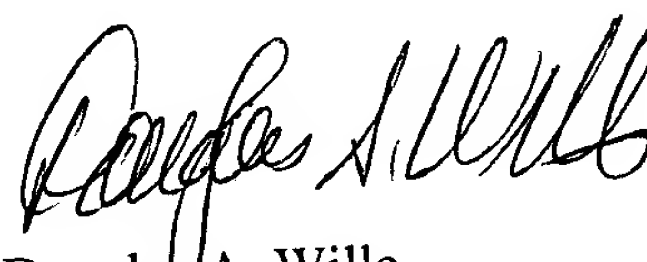
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on (703) 306-2794. The fax phone numbers for the

Application/Control Number: 09/833,078

Art Unit: 2814

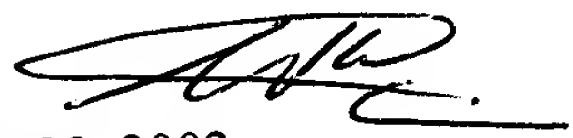
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Douglas A. Wille
Patent Examiner

wsl



June 29, 2002